

**PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of:)	
)	Case No. 1D 2002 63288
)	
RIPSIME GEOZALIAN)	Order Granting Initial Probationary License
)	
)	
<u>Applicant</u>)	

1) This 24 year old applicant is a 2002 graduate of Mount St. Mary's College, in Los Angeles, California. The applicant first filed her physical therapist assistant application on or about November 19, 2002 in the State of California.

2) In July 2002, the applicant submitted an application for physical therapist assistant licensure to the Physical Therapy Board of California. Question # 18 of the application asks: "Have you ever been convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to any offense in any state in the United States or a foreign country?" The applicant failed to disclose criminal history and signed her application on October 22, 2002, certifying under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information contained in the application were true and correct.

3) On March 13, 2003, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) submitted to the board the results of the applicant's fingerprint card. The DOJ reported that on April 13, 2002, the applicant was arrested in California and charged with Make/Pass Fictitious checks. On or about December 19, 2002 was convicted by plea to the offense of Burglary, an infraction, in satisfaction of all charges arising from this incident and was sentenced to a fine of \$2,322, three years probation and community service. By responding "No" to question # 18 of the application and failing to disclose this conviction, the applicant knowingly made a false statement of fact required to be revealed in the application.

JURISDICTION

4) Section 480 (a) of the Business and Professions Code states that a board may deny a license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant has one of the following: (1) Been convicted of a crime...; (2) Done any act involving dishonesty, fraud or deceit with the intent to substantially benefit himself or another, or substantially injure another; or (3) Done any act which if done by a licentiate of the business or profession in question, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of license... Section 480 (c) of the Business and Professions Code provides that the board may deny a license...on the ground that the applicant knowingly made a false statement of fact required to be

revealed in the application for such license. The above findings support a conclusion that grounds for denial exist pursuant to Sections 480 (a)(1)(2) and (3) and 480(c).

5) Section 2660.2 of the Business and Professions Code, the Board may refuse a license to any applicant guilty of unprofessional conduct; or as an alternative, in its sole discretion, issue a probationary license to any applicant for a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct but has met all the requirements for licensure.

6) Section 2661 of the Business and Professions Code states a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge of a felony or of any offense which substantially relates to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physical therapist is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this article.

7) Section 2660 (d) of the Business and Professions Code conviction of a crime which substantially relates to the qualification, functions, or duties of a physical therapist. The record of conviction or a certified copy thereof shall be conclusive evidence of that conviction.

8) Pursuant to Section 480 of the Business and Professions Code, there is cause for denial of a license applicant Ripsime Geozalian.


9) Pursuant to Section 2660.2 of the Business and Professions Code, there is cause to refuse a license to applicant Ripsime Geozalian. Under the circumstances of this matter, however, a probationary license may be issued consistent with the public interest to applicant Ripsime Geozalian on appropriate terms and conditions of probation.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED the application of Ripsime Geozalian, for licensure as a physical therapist assistant is hereby issued subject to terms and conditions. Said license shall be subject to all of the following terms and conditions for a period of three (3) years:

1. PROBATION Applicant is placed on probation for a period of three years. Probation begins on the date the initial probationary license is issued.
2. OBEY ALL LAWS Applicant shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules governing the practice of physical therapy in California.
3. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE - HOME CARE Applicant shall not provide physical therapy services in a patient's home.
4. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE - GRAVEYARD SHIFT Applicant shall be prohibited from working a graveyard shift or any shift in which there is not a physical therapist present.
5. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE - NO CLINICAL INSTRUCTION OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENT INTERNS Applicant shall

- not supervise any physical therapist assistant student interns during the entire period of probation.
6. COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS OF A COURT Applicant shall be in compliance with any valid order of a court. Being found in contempt of any court may constitute a violation of probation.
 7. COMPLIANCE WITH CRIMINAL PROBATION AND PAYMENT OF RESTITUTION Applicant must not violate any terms and conditions of any criminal probation and must be in compliance with any restitution ordered.
 8. QUARTERLY REPORTS Applicant shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.
 9. PROBATION MONITORING PROGRAM COMPLIANCE Applicant shall comply with the Board's probation monitoring program.
 10. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE Applicant shall appear in person for interviews with the Board, or its designee, upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.
 11. NOTIFICATION OF PROBATIONARY STATUS TO EMPLOYERS The applicant shall notify all present or future employers of the reason for and the terms and conditions of the probation by providing a copy of the order to the employer. The licensee shall obtain written confirmation from the employer that the document was received. If licensee changes employment or obtains additional employment, licensee shall provide the above notification to the employer and submit written employer confirmation to the Board within 10 days. The notification(s) shall include the name, address and phone number of the employer, and, if different, the name, address and phone number of the work location.
 12. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS The applicant shall notify the Board, in writing, of any and all changes of name or address within ten (10) days.
 13. PROHIBITED USE OF ALIASES Applicant may not use aliases and shall be prohibited from using any name which is not her legally-recognized name or based upon a legal change of name.
 14. WORK OF LESS THAN 20 HOURS PER WEEK If the applicant works less than 192 hours in a period of three months in employment related to the provision of physical therapy services, those months shall not be counted toward satisfaction of the probationary period. The applicant shall notify the Board if she works less than 192 hours in a three months period.
 15. TOLLING OF PROBATION The period of probation shall run only during the time applicant is practicing within the jurisdiction of California. If, during probation, applicant does not practice within the jurisdiction of California, applicant is required to immediately notify the probation monitor in writing of the date that applicant practice is out of state, and the date of return, if any. Practice by the applicant in California prior to notification to the Board of the applicant's return will not be credited toward completion of probation. Any order for payment of cost recovery shall remain in effect whether or not probation is tolled.

16. VIOLATION OF PROBATION If applicant violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving applicant notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and the license. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against licensee during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
17. CESSATION OF PRACTICE DUE TO RETIREMENT, HEALTH OR OTHER REASONS Following the effective date of this probation, if applicant ceases practicing physical therapy  to retirement, health or other reasons, licensee may request to surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the applicant's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license, the terms and conditions of probation shall be tolled until such time as the license is no longer renewable, the applicant makes application for the renewal of the tendered license or makes application for a new license.
18. COMPLETION OF PROBATION Upon successful completion of probation, applicant's license shall be fully restored.
19. PRACTICE OR PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY WHILE ON PROBATION It is not contrary to the public interest for the applicant to practice or perform physical therapy under the probationary conditions specified in the disciplinary order.

THIS DECISION SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE October 9, 2003.

IT IS SO ORDERED September 9, 2003.

Original Signed By:
Steven K. Hartzell, Executive Officer
Physical Therapy Board of California